

Successful CCAS Deployment Needs Stay-Behind Support

by Mr. David Wilson, Industrial Specialist, DCMA Bell Helicopter, Fort Worth

Participating in a Contingency Contract Administration Services (CCAS) deployment is the most rewarding experience that a Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) employee will have in his or her career. Such an opportunity offers the privilege of sustaining the primary mission and purpose of DCMA, which is to support the men and women in our military. As participants in the CCAS environment, we can meet face-to-face with the military personnel in a hostile environment. However, no deployment is successful without the full support of the employees who remain in the contract management offices (CMOs) and keep the daily operations running smoothly.

CCAS team members deploy from their CMOs for 179 days or longer, so it takes the support of these home offices to successfully accomplish the CCAS mission. The area of impact where the most assistance is needed is in assuming a CCAS team member's workload while he or she is on assignment. I was blessed with a very supportive CMO where the talented workforce was able to perform mission-critical assignments while I was deployed to Iraq. I'm sure that every person who has deployed has someone to thank for doing the work while he or she was away. My someone was Mr. Luther Stanton. Like me, Mr. Stanton is an industrial specialist. He did an excellent

job of handling my duties, maintaining correspondence with our customers and keeping me informed of activities associated with the U.S. Marine Corps H-1 Helicopter Upgrade Program, which involves replacing the current two-bladed rotor system on the UH-1N and AH-1W aircraft with a new, four-bladed, all composite rotor system and state-of-the-art cockpit.

Every CMO would benefit from an employee like Mr. Stanton who epitomizes the meaning of "team player." He has established excellent communications with each of his associates as well as versatily performed the services that DCMA provides to our warriors. Mr. Stanton's flexibility is exhibited in his range of experience in both the H-1 program and the OH-58D (Kiowa Warrior Helicopter) program. He is currently working full time on the OH-58D program, which involves providing products to our soldiers deployed to Iraq.

Not only did Mr. Stanton assist me while I was away, but when I returned from DCMA Iraq to DCMA Bell Helicopter, he facilitated a smooth transition for me. Mr. Stanton is not alone in supporting those who are deployed. Each level of our command, including U.S. Marine Corps Commanding Officer Col. Robert Joslin, Deputy Mr. Bill Cecil and Team Supervisor Ms. Kerri Pennington, is to be commended for making this experience a success. CCAS epitomizes the meaning of "team," and the strongest link in this team success is the support of the CMO.

(Left) Mr. Luther Stanton stands next to a Marine Corps UH-1 Helicopter at DCMA Bell Helicopter, Fort Worth, Texas. (Photo submitted by Ty A. Helton.)

